

Washington Office Employees Head West

by Scott Brayton

Reaffirming BLM's commitment to improve its service to the public and land users, Director Cy Jamison has announced a major downsizing of the Washington, D.C., Headquarters staff in order to provide increased technical personnel at the field level.

During a July 22-23 meeting in Denver, the Bureau Management Team (BMT) decided to relocate 225 to 250 employees of the Washington Office staff to field offices. This move will affect Energy and Mineral Resources, Land and Renewable Resources, Management Services and Support Services programs. This directive fulfills a 6-month study of headquarters' operations and field office needs.

"The primary objective of the shift in personnel," Jamison said, "is to provide the field with more resources to accomplish BLM's multiple use mission. We need BLMers on-the-ground with the land and resources, instead of in Washington, D.C. It's a win-win situation. The public lands, the people we serve and BLM employees will all benefit."

Washington Office personnel with more technical/operational expertise and responsibilities will be transferred to BLM field offices. Washington Office senior staff advisers will continue to effectively communicate with other agencies,

constituencies, interest groups, and Congressional delegations to develop and implement national land use policy for the BLM.

Director Jamison emphasized that employees will receive every consideration. All permanent employees will continue to have a job opportunity with the Bureau. Assistant Directors for the affected programs are meeting with their staffs to facilitate this downsizing as smoothly as possible.

Relocations will be completed within 1 year. A core planning team in the Washington Office will coordinate a series of workgroups with the field offices to reconcile specific issues such as budget, personnel resources and placement, functional statements, and outreach to people within and outside the BLM.

The Washington Office Public Affairs is publishing Downsizing Project Bulletins on a regular basis, as specific details of the downsizing are developed by the planning team and the workgroups. If you have questions about downsizing, call Carol MacDonald, Public Affairs, (202) 208-5717 or (FTS) 268-5717.

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Soil Resource Program Benefits Desert Tortoise

The Stateline Resource Area, Las Vegas, Nevada, is initiating a unique soil survey in cooperation with the Social Conservation Survey. Impetus for the survey came from language provided in legislation enacted by Congress in 1988. This is the first time that a soil survey has been undertaken to specifically link soil characteristics to Desert Tortoise habitat conditions.

Examined for texture, water holding capability, and depth to caliche (a crust of calcium carbonate that forms in the soil of arid regions), the soil will also be tested for its ability to sustain and produce vegetation essential to the survival of the Desert Tortoise.

The Desert Tortoise was listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under an emergency listing in August 1989, and formally listed in May 1990. The information obtained from the survey will be used in the species recovery and implementation plan.

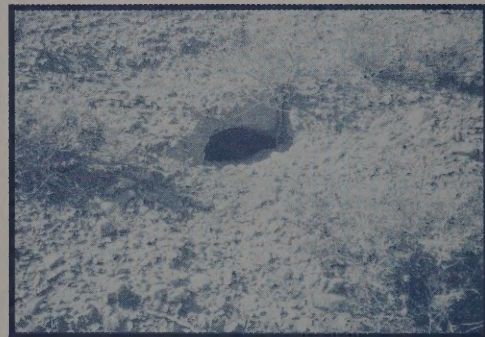
The Desert Tortoise, this one photographed at the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center near Las Vegas, is the largest plant-eating reptile in the southwestern United States. Its existence is threatened by loss of habitat through urban development, an often fatal flu-like disease, increased predation by ravens and pet collecting.



Stateline Resource Area Soil Scientist Eddie Garner and Wildlife Biologist Jeanie Cole examine soil for texture and water retention.



The quality of these components enable the Desert Tortoise to dig and maintain its burrows.



A typical half-moon shape indicates the home of the Desert Tortoise. Disturbance of soil at the burrow entrance, lack of annual vegetation and debris indicate an inhabited burrow. Abandoned burrows become shelters for other desert creatures such as snakes, lizards, rodents and burrowing owls.



Stateline Resource Area Soil Scientist Eddie Garner uses an auger to extract a soil sample.

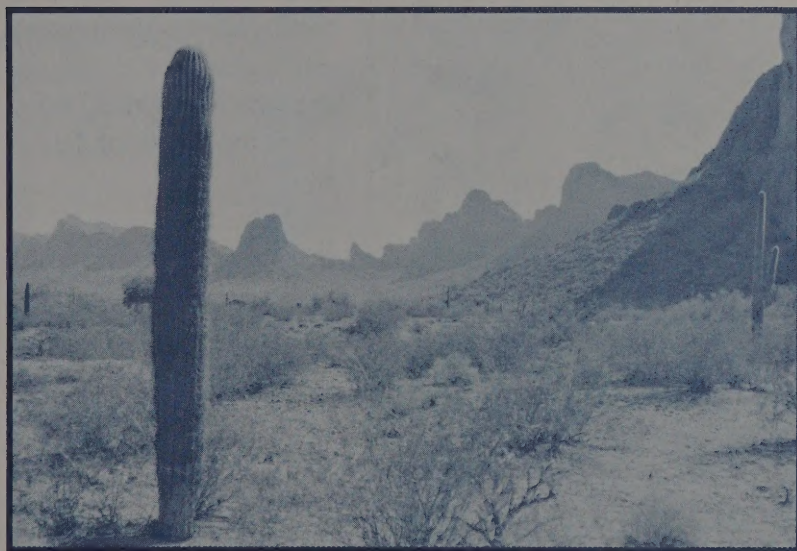
WILDERNESS: A LASTING LEGACY



by Deborah E. Stevens

"Wilderness — how the concept fascinates us — to walk unbounded by space and unhindered by time, to view majestic vistas and relax in the serenity of isolation, to coexist with earth's natural wonders and meditate on its unspoiled splendor. To many, the wilderness experience is an unending feast for the senses, a feeling of symbiosis."
Anonymous.

Congressional delegation and Federal and State land managers, the ARIZONA DESERT WILDERNESS ACT OF 1990 was enacted on November 28, 1990. This law designates more than 1 million acres of BLM land in 39 areas and 1.3 million acres of Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) land in three areas as wilderness.



The Arrastra Wilderness is the largest of BLM's new wilderness areas in Arizona.

The wilderness experience is an important part of America's heritage. Today, Americans can enjoy more than 2 million more acres of pristine wilderness with the recent addition of Arizona's most spectacular scenic areas — wildlife habitat and recreational lands — into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

After years of hard work and intense negotiations among interest groups, the Arizona

The law retains about 57,800 acres in Cactus Plain and 4,800 acres in Baker Canyon as BLM wilderness study areas. Moreover, the law designates the Gila Box area as the country's second Riparian National Conservation Area (RNCA). The San Pedro area was designated the first RNCA and it also lies in Arizona.

Boasting a rich diversity of plant life, the new wilderness areas represent the great Southwestern deserts — Sonoran, Mohave and Chihuahuan. Virtually unchanged for thousands of years, these desert lands provide contrasting scenery and abundant recreational opportunities. Time and climatic forces have shaped them into geological utopias, where hikers can literally squeeze through narrow canyon trails, climb rugged mountain peaks, or discover cultural landmarks and artifacts hidden inside canyons or caves.

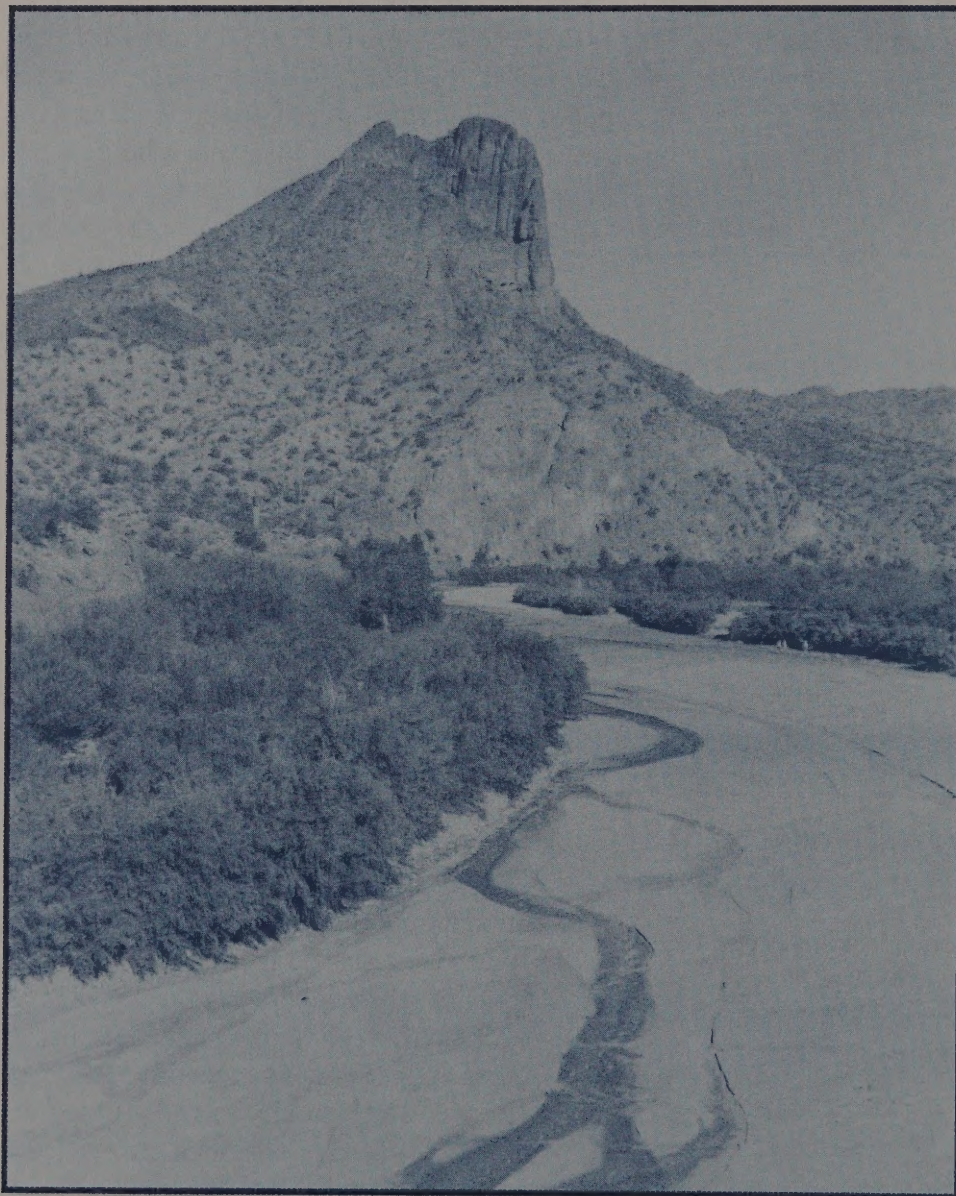
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WILDERNESS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



They are also a watchable wildlife wonderland. They provide habitat for a spectacular array of wildlife, ranging from majestic bighorn sheep climbing rocky mountain crags to Peregrine falcons soaring on warm desert thermals; from

snorting javelinas to snoozing desert tortoises; from shy, colorful Gila monsters to playful coati-mundi who nocturnally delight in visiting backpackers' camps.



The 126,760-acre Arrastra Mountain Wilderness northwest of Phoenix is the largest of BLM's new areas. Baboquivari Peak Wilderness, renowned among mountaineers as the toughest mountain ascent in Arizona, is the smallest with 2,065 acres southwest of Tucson.

Arizona's finest remaining riparian habitats along Burro Creek, the Santa Maria River, Big Sandy River, People Canyon and the Bill Williams River are also protected by the wilderness legislation. These areas support gleaming green oases of vegetation and many common and rare birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Raptors, including the southern bald eagle, are making a comeback in several of these protected riparian areas.

Terrain in the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness Area offers the pristine desert vistas for which Arizona is famous.

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BLM DIRECTOR LANDS "THE BIG ONE"

By Michelle Paladino

Whether he is white water rafting on the Snake River in Idaho, testifying in a pinstripe suit on Capitol Hill or fishing on the Potomac River with inner-city kids, BLM Director Cy Jamison utilizes every forum to publicize the new recreation frontier and outdoor opportunities for the American people on the 270 million acres of BLM public lands. His commitment and dedication to this challenge have not gone unnoticed.

Recently, while fishing for Northern Pike and Walleyes on the Fort Peck Reservoir in Fort Peck, Montana, Cy was interviewed by renowned sportscaster Tony Dean for the 1992 season of TONY DEAN OUTDOORS — a regionally syndicated outdoor television sports show. Tony was curious about this "New BLM" and asked Cy to explain. Cy quickly responded, "We are committed to quality and service. I like to think the 'New BLM' is like the 'New Chrysler Corporation.' I am fulfilling my pledge to making outdoor recreation, fish, wildlife and cultural resources equal partners in the multiple-use family. BLM's recreation program draws upon the tremendous diversity of its lands from caves, mountain bike trails, hang gliding cliffs, wildlife viewing areas — even dog sled race sites. BLM offers something for just about everyone."



Cy, after reeling in a 10 pound Northern Pike, was queried by Tony on his career. "I started at the bottom of the totem pole as a GS-3 with BLM in Montana. Later, I spent nearly a decade on Capitol Hill. I have come home and we

are implementing positive changes in the BLM. The American people are concerned that America's resources and public lands are maintained and safeguarded for their children. Americans want safe and enjoyable recreational experiences. BLM is putting its money where its mouth is. We are implementing recreational programs out in the field and on the ground throughout BLM lands. I am determined to win the public's confidence and prove that multi-

Sunburned Cy Jamison and Tony Dean are "caught" by the camera after their "reel" successful day of fishing on the Fort Peck Reservoir in Montana.

ple-use can work in harmony with environmental responsibility."

TONY DEAN OUTDOORS is broadcast on television stations in North Dakota, South Dakota, Indiana, Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio. You can see Director Jamison on TONY DEAN OUTDOORS in February 1992. TONY DEAN OUTDOORS is also beamed by satellite on Chicago Sports Vision three times weekly.

New Dinosaur Discovery Near Albuquerque

by Don Boyer

BLM paleontologists are excited about another unearthing of fossil dinosaur skeletal remains in Ojita, an area of critical environmental concern and part of BLM's Rio Puerco Resource Area.

"There are now 25 known sites containing dinosaur fossils in Ojita," Albuquerque District Paleontologist Mike O'Neill said. "This is remarkable when one considers that just 12 years ago there was virtually no information on dinosaurs from New Mexico's Morrison Formation." This formation consists of sedimentary rocks of Jurassic age between 130 to 195 million years old.

The Morrison Formation contains the fossils of the "sauropods," the four-footed herbivorous species and the largest land animals that ever inhabited the earth. Sauropods include such monstrous dinosaurs as Brachiosaurus, Camarasaurus, Diplodocus and Brontosaurus — the longest of all dinosaurs. Although sauropod remains are relatively easy to discover, the skeletons are immensely difficult to collect and prepare.

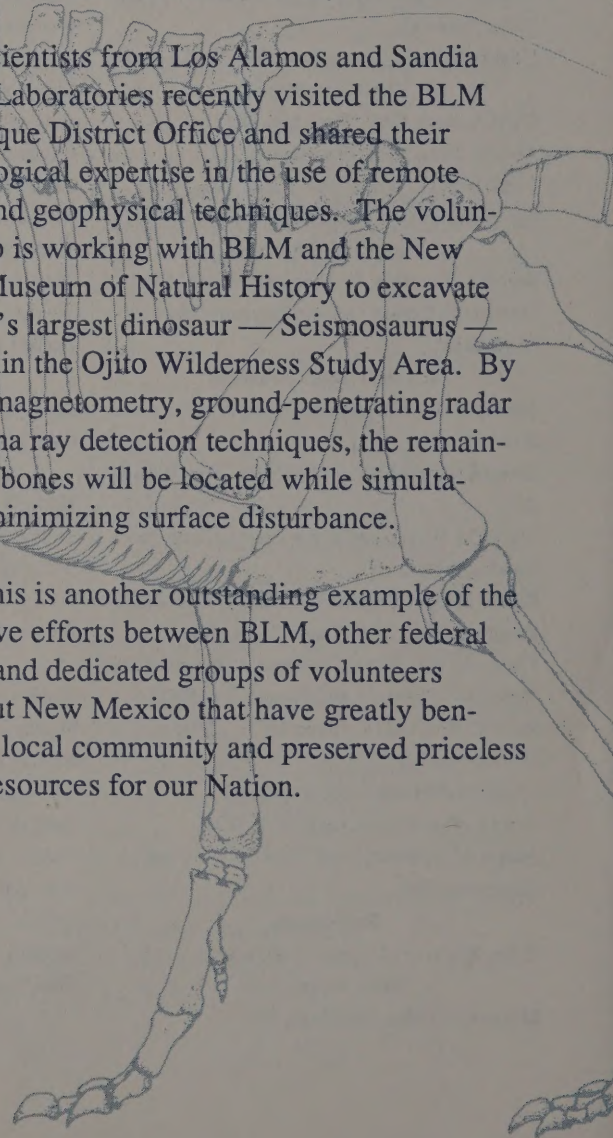
Evidence from the skeletal remains of the specimen unearthed at Ojito discloses a huge sauropod. At this juncture, the identity of this creature is still unknown; however, scientists assume that it is a representative of the Camarasaurus, the most common Morrison Formation dinosaur.

The Friends of Paleontology, a volunteer group made up primarily of retirees, is an organi-

zation affiliated with the New Mexico Museum of Natural History that has tirelessly worked to accomplish this most recent dinosaur recovery project. In the past, the Friends of Paleontology has contributed invaluable assistance in detecting important fossil remains and has provided labor and expertise in the excavation of many dinosaur specimens. The Fossil Posse, a subgroup of the Friends, has contributed more than 800 hours of work in reconnaissance, excavation, and preparation on the latest dinosaur discovery.

Scientists from Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories recently visited the BLM Albuquerque District Office and shared their paleontological expertise in the use of remote sensing and geophysical techniques. The volunteer group is working with BLM and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History to excavate the world's largest dinosaur — *Seismosaurus* — from within the Ojito Wilderness Study Area. By utilizing magnetometry, ground-penetrating radar and gamma ray detection techniques, the remaining fossil bones will be located while simultaneously minimizing surface disturbance.

This is another outstanding example of the cooperative efforts between BLM, other federal agencies and dedicated groups of volunteers throughout New Mexico that have greatly benefited the local community and preserved priceless cultural resources for our Nation.



BLM Around the Country

"NO CHECK-OUT TIME AT THE ANIMAL INN"

At the headquarters of the Forest Service in early June, BLM Director Cy Jamison and Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson signed an agreement initiating the ANIMAL INN program — "There's Life In Dead Trees!" Nearly a third of all forest creatures including fish, plants and microlife depend on snags and fallen trees for their survival.

Director Jamison welcomed the partnership saying, "BLM is committed to protecting and preserving sensitive resources and to maintaining biological diversity. The ANIMAL INN program will help us achieve these goals."

Additional partners involved in the agreement are American Forest Council, National Forest Products Association, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Association of State Foresters, and National Woodland Owners Association.



Director Jamison at the ANIMAL INN signing ceremony with BLM's snag, designed by Washington Office's Public Affairs Specialist Michelle Paladino and Visual Information Specialist Gayle Houston.



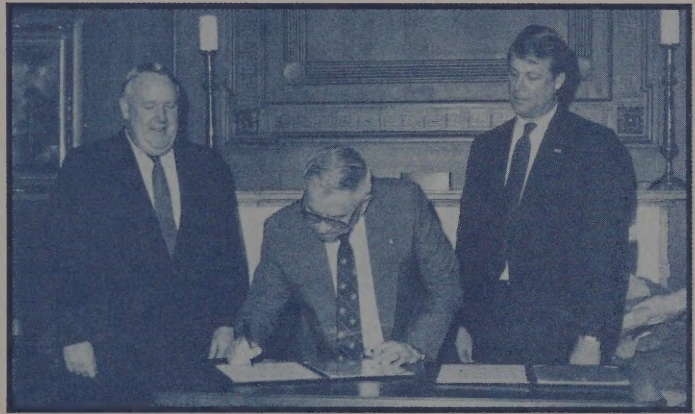
BLM Around the Country

AMA AND BLM COOPERATE ON CONSERVATION GOALS

On March 15, the American Motorcyclist Association entered into a cooperative agreement with the BLM to promote conservation and improve the management of BLM's Back Country Byways. The agreement provides a national framework that will guide the development of partnerships between BLM officials and AMA affiliates at the regional, State and local levels.

BLM Director Cy Jamison, Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan Jr. and AMA Vice-President Robert Rasor sign a partnership agreement in a ceremony held in the Secretary's Washington, D.C., office.

Under the agreement, the AMA will identify project and service opportunities for local individuals, clubs or organizations. The BLM will work with the AMA in the development of signs, brochures and other educational materials that will motivate the Byway users to respect private and public property and minimize impacts on the environment.



BLM DIRECTOR SIGNS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT TO BENEFIT CANCER RESEARCH

In June BLM Director Cy Jamison and representatives of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company signed a cooperative agreement that provides for the collection of bark from the Pacific yew tree for the purpose of producing the anti-cancer drug taxol.

Taxol was discovered through research supported by the Department of Health and Human Service's National Cancer Institute (NCI). It has proven to be an effective treatment for ovarian cancer, and may also be useful in treating breast, lung and colon cancer. Currently the primary source of taxol approved for use in clinical trials is from the bark of the Pacific yew tree, which is commonly found on BLM lands in the Pacific Northwest.

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